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Ex-Police Chief of Dallas Finds Data on Kennedy Death Unclear

Jesse Curry, in a Book About the Murder, Cites Varying Accounts of Witnesses

By MARTIN WALDRON

Special to The New York Times

DALLAS, Jan. 16 — Jesse E. Curry, retired police chief of Dallas, has suggested in a book just published that the entire circumstances surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy may not have been told.

Mr. Curry directed the Dallas police department's investigation of the murder on Nov. 22, 1963.

Using private police files, which included copies of confidential reports and photographs, Mr. Curry has now reviewed the course of the police investigation into Mr. Kennedy's death.

"The physical evidence and eyewitness accounts do not clearly indicate what took place on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository at the time John F. Kennedy was assassinated," Mr. Curry wrote.

"Speculative magazine and newspaper reports led the public believe that numerous eyewitnesses positively identified Lee Harvey Oswald as the sniper in the sixth floor window. The testimony of the people who watched the motorcade was much more confusing than either the press or the Warren Commission seemed to indicate.

Finds Story Inconsistent

Mr. Curry said that the "key witness" used by the Warren Commission in concluding that Oswald was a lone assassin had not told a consistent story to the police. This witness, Mr. Curry wrote, was Howard L. Brennan, then a 45-year-old steam fitter who said he had seen the sniper shoot the President.

"Officers estimated that he was only about 120 feet from the sixth-floor window," Mr. Curry wrote. "When interviewed at the scene, Brennan claimed to have heard the first shot and then to have looked up to see the sniper fire a second shot. Brennan claimed that only two shots were fired



Associated Press

Jesse E. Curry

from the book depository.

"Friday night, Nov. 22, 1963, Howard Brennan watched a police line-up. Brennan was unable to make a positive identification of Oswald in the line-up. He was willing to admit that Oswald resembled the man in the window, but that was all. Brennan's later testimony to Federal Bureau of Investigation agents apparently varied from month to month after the as-

sassination. Brennan was later to become the Warren Commission's key witness. At the time of the Warren Commission hearings, Howard Brennan was willing to positively identify Oswald as the man he saw in the windows."

Mr. Curry said that other eyewitnesses, who said they had seen two men standing at the window from which the shots were fired, had been interviewed by the Dallas police and then turned over to F.B.I. agents for questioning.

"No statement about the second man or mention of any accomplice appeared in the F.B.I. report," Mr. Curry wrote.

Among the exhibits included in Mr. Curry's book, which is called "J.F.K. Assassination File," is a laboratory report on paraffin casts of Oswald's hand and his right cheek.

"A paraffin test taken of the right side of Oswald's face did not reveal any nitrates from having fired a rifle," Mr. Curry wrote. "Oswald had a nitrate pattern on his hand consistent with the allegation that he fired the revolver which killed officer Tippit."

J. D. Tippit, a Dallas policeman, was shot to death on a residential street 48 minutes after President Kennedy was shot.